

by clamping the object while preventing damage thereto, said device [without any risk at all of damaging them,] comprising:

[-] a cylindrical support part, and

[-] two arms, each arm including a transverse hole and at least one of these arms carrying an elastic buffer secured thereto, said buffer having a contact face for contacting said object and having under its contact face a thickness large enough so that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the surface of said object,

said support part being disposed within said transverse holes of said arms such that [of which] at least one of said arms is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, and
[- and one substantially elastic buffer secured to one of said two arms at a distance from said support part, said buffer having under its contact face, which is at a right angle to said support part, a thickness large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring]

wherein said object may be held by said device by positioning said object between said arms and in contact with said elastic buffer, and tilting said at least one movable arm with respect to said support part such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said at least one movable arm.

--16. (Twice Amended) A [The] method for holding an object [objects] by clamping the object while preventing damage thereto, [without any risk at all of damaging] and which utilizes [consists in using] a device including a cylindrical support part and two arms, each arm including a transverse hole and at least one of these arms carrying an elastic buffer secured thereto, said buffer having a contact face for contacting said object and having under its contact face a thickness large enough so that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the surface of said object, said support part being disposed within said transverse holes of said arms such that at least one of said arms is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part [of which at least one is movable along said support part, at least one of said arms having a substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the support part, said buffer having under its contact face, which is approximately at a right angle to said support part, a [so large] thickness large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring], said method comprising the steps of:

positioning said object between said arms:

[a)] applying said [substantially] elastic buffer against ^a [some resistant] ¹ respective surface of said object,

[b)] manually exerting pressure on the backs [back] of said arms [a manual thrust,] to clamp said object between said arms, and

[c)] stopping the exertion of pressure when said at least one movable arm is tilted with respect to [this thrust so as to lock those of said arms

which are movable by tilting against] said support part, such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said at least one movable arm, thereby locking said arm in place with respect to said support part.